

CA2 ALW  
A56  
1955/1956  
c.2

ALBERTA LEGISLATURE LIBRARY



3 3398 00437 4137



TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

1955 - 1956

---

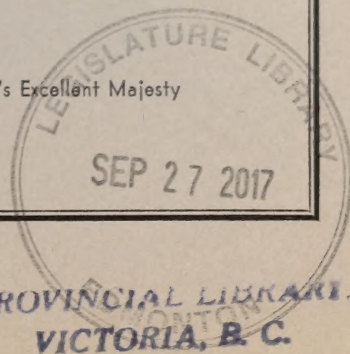
PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

---

EDMONTON

Printed by A. SHNITKA, Printer to the Queen's Excellent Majesty

1957









**TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC WELFARE**

**1955 - 1956**

---


**PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

---

**EDMONTON**

Printed by A. SHNITKA, Printer to the Queen's Excellent Majesty

1957



Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2018 with funding from  
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

HONOURABLE R. D. JORGENSEN...Minister

A. H. MILLER .....Deputy Minister

RAY G. HAGEN .....Departmental Supervisor

D. W. ROGERS .....Departmental Accountant

W. T. SYKES .....Chairman, Home Investigating  
Committee

Supervisor, Public Assistance  
Branch

Supervisor of Inspections Branch

W. A. R. REES .....Director, Single Men's Division

A. C. McCULLY .....Supervisor, Metis Rehabilitation  
Branch

C. B. HILL .....Superintendent, Child Welfare  
Branch

W. P. BULLOCK .....Superintendent, Mothers'  
Allowance Branch

Superintendent, Alberta  
Pensions Branch

H. F. COOMBS .....Supervisor, Calgary Office

L. R. GUE .....Co-ordinator, Rehabilitation of  
Disabled Persons Branch

#### ALBERTA PENSIONS BOARD

W. P. BULLOCK .....Chairman

A. C. McCULLY .....Member

W. A. R. REES .....Member

#### CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION

C. B. HILL .....Chairman

RAY G. HAGEN .....Member-Secretary

ELLEN A. TATHAM .....Member

W. T. SYKES .....Member

J. E. WARD .....Member

---

D. W. ROGERS .....Personnel Officer

A. L. MILLER .....Statistician





## Report of the Deputy Minister

Edmonton, Alberta,  
January 3, 1957.

Honourable R. D. Jorgenson,  
Minister of Public Welfare,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of The Department of Public Welfare Act, I have the honour to submit to you the Twelfth Annual Report of the Department of Public Welfare which covers the fiscal year ended 31st March, 1956.

The Department consists of the branches and divisions as listed hereunder and a separate report of the activities of each branch and division is submitted herewith:

The Public Welfare Assistance Branch  
Single Men's Division  
Metis Rehabilitation Branch  
Child Welfare Branch  
Mothers' Allowance Branch  
Pensions Branch  
Inspection Branch  
Accounting Branch

The Department is required to administer the following statutes:

The Blind Persons Act  
The Child Welfare Act  
The Department of Public Welfare Act  
The Home for Aged or Infirm Act  
The Improvement Districts Act (Sections 45, 46, 47)  
The Maternal Welfare Act  
The Metis Population Betterment Act  
The Mothers' Allowance Act  
The Old Age Assistance Act  
The Poliomyelitis Sufferers' Act (Section 3)  
The Public Contributions Act  
The Public Welfare Act  
The Public Welfare Assistance Act  
The Relief Liability Act  
The Supplementary Allowances Act  
The Widows' Pensions Act  
The Disabled Persons' Pensions Act  
The Disabled Persons' Act

At the Session of the Legislature held during the period August 17th to 25th, 1955, the following Act was placed on the Statutes, The Golden Jubilee Special Allowance Act; while at the 1956 Session amendments were made to the following Acts:

The Disabled Persons' Pensions Act  
The Mothers' Allowance Act

**The Golden Jubilee Special Allowance Act.** This provided for the payment of a special allowance of \$50.00 to persons then receiving Old Age Assistance, Blind Persons' Allowance, Disabled Persons' Pension, Disabled Persons' Allowance, Mothers' Allowance and/or Widows' Pension and also to recipients of Old Age Security who were receiving the Provincial Supplementary Allowance. Recipients of the Federal War Veterans' Allowance and the Dependent's Parents Pension were also granted this allowance.

**The Disabled Persons' Pensions Act.** The amendment to this Act reduced the residence requirement for eligibility for pensions under the Act to have five years' continuous residence instead of the former ten years and a total ten years' residence altogether.

**The Mothers' Allowance Act.** This amendment provided for the exclusion of persons who, for the purposes of health and welfare services, are the responsibility of the Government of Canada.

The continued industrial development of the Province has resulted in the influx of persons from other parts of the Dominion, from the United States and various countries overseas. Those willing and able to work have readily obtained employment at the high rate of wages that is now available. This situation has also resulted in many of our permanent residents changing from their regular employment with the result that a number of well established firms are finding it difficult to acquire satisfactory staff.

As is customary in periods of rapid expansion, the Province is having its population increased by a number of persons who desire to make a living without having to exert much effort. This has resulted in a substantial increase in the number on the relief rolls both of the municipalities and the Province and this is particularly noticeable during the winter months when these people congregate in the larger centres. The most astounding feature of these cases is that so few have been gainfully employed at any time as evidenced by the lack of their ability to obtain unemployment insurance benefits.

The demand for services to non-employed persons, including hospital and medical attention, continues to show a steady increase while the cost of such services has shown a substantial increase during the year. Many elderly persons, who in the past had succeeded in obtaining sufficient remunerative employment to look after themselves, must now definitely be regarded as in the unemployable class and those of age would naturally take advantage of the present old age security. It has always been the desire of the government to see that this class of people is adequately cared for.

The rehabilitation and re-establishment policy which has been in effect in this Province for many years continues to show satisfactory results. Many families formerly in receipt of assistance have been successfully re-established and are now fully maintaining themselves. This is due to a large extent to the constant and untiring efforts of the individual members



of the staff who have been successful in finding employment for a number of persons through sources other than the National Employment Service.

The Metis settlement scheme continues to fulfil the purpose for which it was intended and full details of the activities of this branch are embodied in a separate report covering this phase of our operations.

Improvements at the Welfare Centre at Gunn continue to be made and accommodation for over one hundred single, homeless, unemployable persons is now available at this point. The hostels at Edmonton and Calgary operated by the Province provide, along with the Welfare Centre at Gunn, for the aged or physically unfit single men. Those in good physical condition are usually sent to the centre at Gunn while others who might require medical care are usually retained at the larger centres. These centres continue to maintain the highest peak of efficiency and our experience has shown that this method is the most successful one for looking after single, homeless persons. The inmates of these homes always seem happy and contented and they express themselves as being satisfied with their environment.

The method of providing medical services to indigent persons living in remote areas of the Province, as has been in effect for many years, is proving satisfactory. Sixteen doctors and four nurses now under contract provide medical aid in the outlying areas of the Province while arrangements have been made with the hospitals to provide treatment for these people. Medical supplies and equipment are furnished to local nurses and nursing institutions where other forms of medical services are not readily available.

The work of the Pensions Branch continues to increase in volume. The transfer of persons who have reached the age of 70 years to federal old age security has not reduced the work to any extent for the reason that the Province continues to pay the provincial supplementary allowance to those transferred. Furthermore, this branch is also required to handle all applications for old age assistance of the 65-69 year old group in addition to the blind persons' allowance and the widows' pensions.

The Inspection Branch continues to perform its work in a satisfactory manner. It is required to furnish a report on each person receiving assistance from the Department either in the form of supplementary allowance, old age assistance or the blind persons' allowance. In addition to this it requires the inspection of all foster homes in which children who are wards of the government are placed.

The gross expenditures of the Department for the period under review amounted to \$13,869,945, compared with \$11,103,378 in the preceding year.

The Government of Canada reimburses the Province up to 50% of the amount expended for assistance under The Old Age Assistance Act and The Disabled Persons Act and up to 75% of the amount expended for allowances under The Blind Persons Act. The cost of these various forms of pensions and allowances are as follows:

## 1955 - 1956

	Expended	Recovered from Federal Government	Net Cost to Province
Old Age Assistance -----	\$2,534,409	\$1,139,089	\$1,395,320
Blind Persons Allowance ----	196,882	132,773	64,109
Supplementary Allowance ---	4,225,911	-----	4,225,911
Widows' Pensions -----	338,941	-----	338,941
Disabled Persons' Pensions {			
Disabled Persons' Allowances {	\$ 959,308	\$ 245,741	\$ 713,567
Mothers' Allowances -----	1,314,733	-----	1,314,733
	<u>\$ 9,570,184</u>	<u>\$1,517,603</u>	<u>\$8,052,581</u>
Golden Jubilee Special Allowance -----	1,760,874	-----	1,760,874
	<u>\$11,331,058</u>	<u>\$1,517,603</u>	<u>\$9,813,455</u>

The following are the figures for the previous year:

## 1954 - 1955

	Expended	Recovered from Federal Government	Net Cost to Province
Old Age Assistance -----	\$2,376,718	\$1,160,062	\$1,216,656
Blind Persons Allowance ----	189,087	140,328	48,759
Supplementary Allowance ---	4,138,700	-----	4,138,700
Widows' Pensions -----	306,527	-----	306,527
Disabled Persons' Pensions --	665,168	-----	665,168
Mothers' Allowances -----	1,198,413	-----	1,198,413
	<u>\$8,874,613</u>	<u>\$1,300,390</u>	<u>\$7,574,223</u>

It may be noted that prior to the time the various forms of pensions and allowances were put into effect the burden of providing for the recipients thereof rested primarily on the municipalities. In addition to relieving the municipalities of this obligation the Province provided the municipalities, during the year, with grants amounting to \$1,108,958 to assist them in providing maintenance for their indigent residents, including child welfare. The amount expended by the Department of Health is not included in these figures.

---

An increasing interest in welfare matters continues to develop among our citizens and this attitude is noted with deepest satisfaction by the staff of the Department.

I wish to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the loyal and faithful support which has been given by all members of the staff throughout the year. The very nature of the work of this Department, dealing as it does with suffering and distress, requires tact and firmness combined with sympathetic consideration.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. MILLER,

Deputy Minister of Public Welfare.



## **Public Assistance Branch**

### **REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENTAL SUPERVISOR**

**RAY G. HAGEN**

The steadily expanding economy and industrial development of the province remains unchecked, and brings with it a steadily rising population. Various large projects in hitherto undeveloped regions have resulted in the shift of population from previously stable communities to these new centres of employment and opportunity, augmented by those persons from other sections of Canada and from foreign countries who migrate to this province of boundless promise. Inevitably there are those who in facing the new challenge, find themselves beset with temporary misfortune whereby assistance is required for the maintenance of themselves and their families. There are, too, those peoples of the migrant class who proceed from place to place without the desire or the abilities to adequately provide for themselves, that add to the group of problem persons in our midst who have required assistance throughout the years. It is gratifying and to the credit of the people that there is no alarming increase in the number seeking assistance; however, conditions have resulted in a somewhat larger number of applications being dealt with by the Department, either directly or indirectly. Each incorporated municipality, be it City, Town, Village or Municipal District, is directly responsible to administer assistance to the needy within their respective jurisdictions. However, inasmuch as the province bears the greater portion of the cost of all such assistance granted by these governing bodies, this Department, as the responsible authority in refunding such monies by way of grant on application, maintains a close and harmonious relationship with all municipal governments. Those persons requiring assistance, who are resident in a local improvement district, are the direct responsibility of the Department, and their needs are administered to in part by the co-operative efforts of, amongst others, Inspectors of the Department of Municipal Affairs and members of the local R.C.M.P. detachments, who render assistance in ministering to the needs of unfortunate peoples on behalf of the Department.

A representative 30 day period in the year under review reveals a total of 1,470 persons as having received direct assistance through the Public Assistance Branch of the Department, by way of food, fuel, clothing and shelter. Medical services were provided to 581, and grants were paid to municipalities on behalf of 2,791 persons, under authority of The Public Welfare Assistance Act.

Under the provisions of The Homes for Aged or Infirm Act, grants were made to municipalities for the care of 589 of their aged citizens in properly licensed homes, where the whole or part cost had been borne by the municipality. In regard to homes for the aged and infirm, it might be mentioned that the Government, through the medium of this Department, has made provision for the payment of grants towards the cost of construction of such homes authorized by referendum in organized municipalities. This grant is available to homes of ten or more beds, and may be one-third of the cost, or \$750.00 per bed, whichever is the lesser. Several such homes exist, the latest and most modern being the Red Deer Twilight Lodge, which is serving as an inspirational model for other municipalities considering similar projects.

---

The efforts of the Rehabilitation Branch in rendering aid and assistance to the physically handicapped is showing encouraging results and earning the gratitude of the many who have received benefit through the endeavors made on their behalf.

It is fitting at this time to express gratitude to the many municipal welfare officers, community organizations, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, officials of the other kindred government departments, and the departmental officials and workers, who through whole-hearted co-operation and endeavor are bending their efforts towards the alleviation of want and suffering amongst the aged, the infirm and the unfortunate in our midst.

## ANNUAL REPORT

### Single Men's Branch

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

W. A. R. REES

YEAR 1955 - 1956

Single, homeless men who are destitute and have not established residence in a City, Town or Municipality of the Province, are cared for by the Department of Public Welfare through its Single Men's Branch. Married men whose wives have not come to Canada are classed as single men for relief purposes.

Married men seeking work in the Province, whose wives remain in other provinces and become destitute, are cared for until they obtain work or leave the Province.

The majority of the occupants of the various institutions maintained by this Department are, during the summer months, elderly men or younger individuals who have recently been discharged from hospital, are destitute and have not established residence in a City, Town or Municipality of the Province. These young men are cared for until they have recovered sufficiently to go to work.

Many of the older inhabitants, through old age or illness, have to be cared for in nursing homes, the cost of which is borne by the Department. Pensioners who are too feeble or ill and have to be cared for in registered homes or institutions contribute a portion of their pensions towards their maintenance and the balance of the cost is taken care of by this Branch of the Department of Public Welfare.

Many old homesteaders in the outlying districts require assistance which is provided in the form of food vouchers on the local stores. These old homesteaders are quite a problem. They often live many miles from their nearest neighbors and through infirmities are unable to properly care for themselves and should be living in an institution but refuse to leave the shacks in which they have lived the greater part of their lives. In some cases they are persuaded to move to our Gunn Welfare Centre on the understanding that the Department will pay their transportation to the Centre and will pay their transportation back should they not like it there; invariably those who go to the Centre are content and stay there.

### GUNN WELFARE CENTRE

Near the Village of Gunn, fifty miles North-West of the City of Edmonton and a quarter of a mile from the shores of Lac Ste. Anne, the Department has established a Welfare Centre. It is the only one of its kind in the Dominion of Canada. It has been in existence for fifteen years or so and was set up to provide for single, homeless men who are provincial charges and require more than temporary assistance.

The occupants of the Centre live in huts that accommodate four individuals. Each has his own bedroom and there is a common living-room.



Heat is provided by oil heaters with a control device to provide a steady heat. The occupants are expected to keep their room and the hut clean and tidy.

The men living in the huts take a keen interest in the flower plots in front and at the sides of their huts. There is a great deal of rivalry in their efforts to produce the best showing of flowers during the summer months.

A large Recreation Hall was constructed to provide entertainment for men of the Centre. It contains a Central Hall, Library, Reading Room and Barber Shop. In the Central Hall there is a piano, television set and a radio.

Local organizations put on entertainments at the Hall and fraternal societies as far away as Edmonton take concert parties to the Centre.

Clothing is provided when necessary and a tobacco issue is given twice a month to the men who desire it.

The Gunn Welfare Centre was established on a portion of a School Section and occupies approximately a hundred and fifty acres. Cows, hogs, turkeys and chickens are raised and cared for at the Centre and provide milk, eggs and meat for the dining room of the Centre. Sufficient vegetables and garden truck is grown for the Centre and often there is a surplus which is shipped to the other establishments operated by the Branch. The number of turkeys raised and fattened is sufficient to provide Christmas dinners for the Gunn Welfare Centre and the Edmonton and Calgary Hostels which come under the jurisdiction of the Single Men's Branch.

The men of the Centre assist in the outdoor work to the best of their individual physical ability. Most of the occupants of the Centre are men who earned their living in outdoor occupations, and are far happier in their present environment than they would be if housed in institutions in the City.

Many take quite an interest in the little chores they are given to do to assist in the maintenance of the Centre.

In the summer months some of the men of the Centre obtain temporary work from the people of the Village of Gunn and farmers of the vicinity. The little they earn they keep for their own use.

## EDMONTON AND CALGARY HOSTELS

Hostels are maintained in the Cities of Edmonton and Calgary to provide for the single, homeless, unemployed transient men.

The Hostel at Edmonton is a building recently constructed by the Department of Public Works and specially designed for the purpose. There single, destitute men of the Northern portion of the Province are cared for.

Men requiring assistance apply at the Hostels. There they are interviewed, registered and if assistance is necessary, are given a bed and provided with meals. If an applicant for assistance requires medical attention, he is referred to the Outdoor Clinic. The Doctors at the Outdoor

Clinic, which is operated by the University Hospital, decide if the patient should be sent to hospital. If this is necessary, he is sent to the University Hospital. Relief recipients who only require medical attention at the Outdoor Clinic, attend there and are cared for at the Hostel.

The Ogden Hostel, Calgary, is operated to care for the single, homeless men of the Southern portion of the province. This building was originally an hotel and was purchased by the Provincial Government many years ago for the purpose it is used for. At the Ogden Hostel a limited amount of hospital care is provided. On the staff there are medical orderlies, a matron and a doctor, to care for relief recipients in need of medical care.

Both institutions have Recreation Rooms, a Library and Radio. There are also facilities for the occupants to wash their clothes.

### OBSERVATIONS

Although we have experienced a season of practically full employment, many of the regular relief recipients applied for assistance as soon as work finished in the fall. They made no provision to conserve their earnings but spent it as fast as they made it and in a short time were back on the relief line. The majority of this type are not covered by Unemployment Relief Insurance.

We had the usual number of drifters from other provinces seeking work in the oil fields. Many were not suited for that type of work and were mainly unskilled laborers.

There is the increasing problem of the person in receipt of Unemployment Insurance who leaves the district in which he was working and drawing his Unemployment Insurance. Many such individuals are unsuccessful in obtaining work in the district they move to, become destitute and have to be cared for pending the transfer of their files from one Unemployment Insurance Office to the other, which often takes considerable time.

We also have reason to believe that men who are in receipt of Unemployment Insurance declare on oath that they are destitute and apply for and receive assistance.

Although there was a large measure of employment and prosperity with increased wages, there was still a proportion of the single men who dissipate all they earn as soon as possible and then apply to the various government agencies for assistance.

During the past two or three years, it is surprising how well dressed many of the applicants for assistance are. It is also very noticeable that a large number are smoking manufactured cigarettes which are quite expensive.

## **Rehabilitation and Re-Establishment Metis Settlement Colonies**

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR**

**A. C. McCULLY**

---

Continued advancement is noted in re-establishment of settlers on Metis Colonies, a fact that is borne out by the improved living conditions and permanent improvements in evidence throughout all Colonies. Much of the cost of operation is being charged to the Metis Trust Fund as it is felt that certain expenditures must be considered as benefits to the entire settlement. This in turn reduces the expenditure of Provincial funds voted to carry on this Branch of the Department.

See "Capital Equipment Purchased through Metis Trust".

Metis Veterans established under the Dominion-Provincial Special Agreements on the Colonies are, in the majority of cases, making good progress.

Assistance by way of material aid has been confined solely to issues necessary to provide for settlers who are unable to work, owing to old age or sickness.

### **DEVELOPMENT AND PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS**

Continued progress is being made in agricultural areas in clearing and breaking additional land. Six thousand, four hundred and two acres are now cleared, broken and under cultivation. Development and cropping of government farm lands provides both feed for livestock and good seed grain for settlers, as well as demonstrating the suitability of crops to the various areas.

There are improvements of a permanent nature on the Areas to a value of \$258,057.23.

For details see attached statements marked B1 and B2.

### **HOUSING**

There are now on the Areas 120 houses which comply with standard housing requirements, while an additional 40 are under construction and 254 temporary shacks.

For details see attached statements marked Appendix A.



## STOCK AND EQUIPMENT

Settlers participating in the program own livestock and equipment as set out below, all of which have been purchased from their own resources:

Milch Cows .....	322
Other Cattle .....	1,665
Horses .....	750
Hogs .....	507
Sheep .....	24
Poultry .....	2,340
Total of cattle .....	1,987

to a value of approximately \$109,534.00. In order to improve the settlers' livestock, the government has placed purebred sires of all classes in all areas. Settlers' equipment consists of wagons, sleighs, harness, mowers, rakes, tractors, trucks, power drills and threshing machines.

For details of stock and equipment on the various areas see Appendix C.

The most noticeable improvement on the Colonies is the addition to farm equipment purchased by the settlers. On the Keg River Colony there are now 12 trucks, 16 farm tractors, 5 powerlift drills, 5 powerlift plows, 4 threshing machines, 1 weed sprayer, and 12 power washing machines.

On Utikuma Colony: 8 trucks, 6 farm tractors, 1 caterpillar, and 7 sawmills.

On Beaver River: 7 farm trucks, 5 tractors, 3 sawmills, and some power machinery.

On other Colonies, not so well adapted to farming, the advancement is shown in additional livestock.

## EDUCATION

The department has the responsibility of building and maintaining the schools and employing the teachers. During the year under review considerable advancement was made; 13 classrooms were in operation. Schools which previously operated with the most limited supply of texts, library and reference books, and other equipment now have a supply of everything equivalent to that of an average rural school.

On one Colony where senior high school work is taught, we have built and equipped an up-to-date wood working shop and also a Home Economics Classroom.

On five of the Colonies, Moving Picture Projectors have been set up in the community halls, and are used extensively for the showing of educational films for the children as well as a weekly show for the entertainment of the adults.

Due to the natural instincts of this race of people it has been found that pupils respond more readily to teaching by observation than by oral dictation or text-book study. For this reason we are placing a great deal of emphasis on this phase of our educational work and hope in the immediate future to have power in each district so that we may have projectors in all classrooms, and make use of all educational films available.

Inspectors' reports disclose that the average attendance in these schools compares favorably with the average attendance in schools in pioneer white settlements, and the progress made by the Metis children is reported to be very satisfactory. It is also noted that there is a marked improvement in the cleanliness and general health of these children.

The improved living conditions of those who now have homes that comply with the standards set for housing in these areas and the adoption of simple precautions to procure pure drinking water no doubt account to some extent for this general improvement. However, some difficulty is still being experienced in prevailing upon the settlers to adopt simple rules of general sanitation and to eliminate overcrowding in their homes.

### HEALTH

Where possible medical health officers and district health nurses have visited the colonies and rendered their usual services. Vaccinations, inoculations, immunization treatments, and general health inspections were carried out. At Keg River Colony we have constructed and equipped an emergency hospital and placed a resident nurse in charge, the settlers themselves supplying much of the labour and funds used for the purchase of part of the equipment. It is the intention to support this enterprise from funds accumulated for the most part from the profits of community projects, such as lumbering and fishing, which have been carried on by the settlers under government supervision. It is the intention of the administration to expand this service so that there may be a similar set-up in each Colony.

### STORES

In order to make available necessary supplies at proper prices, stores of staple goods are now carried in two of the areas, Keg River No. 1 and Beaver River No. 7, and are placed in charge of the Government Supervisor of each area. These stores provide a means of making available material required for the erection of buildings (shelter) other than material that may be produced in the area, as well as food and clothing when necessary, thus enabling the settlers to obtain their supplies at minimum prices as all goods are sold at cost price plus a small handling charge to cover the cost of operation.

During the period under review the gross sales in the Keg River Store amounted to \$47,065.47 and in the Beaver River Store to \$19,610.21.

### TIMBER

Commercial timber projects were set up and successfully operated in each Colony. All public funds used in connection with these projects were repaid out of the sale of lumber and the profits placed in the Metis Trust Fund. These operations provide gainful employment for a large number of settlers and at the same time make it possible for them to remain in their own homes and look after their own livestock instead of going to work in distant lumber camps.

## Appendix "A"

## SETTLERS

To 31st March, 1956

## APPROVED SETTLERS

## AREA

		Families	Total Persons	Standard	Temporary Shacks	Standard Under Construction	Not Yet On Area
No. 1	Keg River	92	340	33	47	13	---
No. 3	Big Prairie-Utikuma	121	440	22	64	7	---
No. 4	East Prairie	26	113	3	15	4	---
No. 7	Beaver River	90	402	39	60	10	---
No. 8A	Wolf Lake	22	97	4	16	--	---
No. 10	Fishing Lake	80	380	19	52	10	---
		431	1,772	120	254	40	----



## Appendix "B1"

## PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY SETTLERS ON ALLOTMENTS

As at March 31st, 1956

No.	AREA No.	Houses Value	Value of Other Buildings Fencing, Wells	Clearing Acres	Breaking Acres	Breaking and Clearing Value	Garden Value	Total
No. 1	Keg River -----	\$17,786.00	\$16,454.00	360	3,340	\$19,000.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 53,640.00
No. 3	Utikuma-Big Prairie -----	13,009.00	11,343.00	370	742	7,690.00	320.00	32,362.00
No. 4	East Prairie -----	5,325.00	4,361.00	125	470	4,220.00	120.00	14,026.00
No. 7	Beaver River -----	17,960.00	13,240.00	425	1,090	10,600.00	500.00	42,300.00
No. 8A	Wolf Lake -----	1,010.00	1,225.00	110	220	2,660.00	100.00	4,995.00
No. 10	Fishing Lake -----	9,356.00	6,750.00	325	540	5,645.00	390.00	22,141.00
		\$64,446.00	\$53,373.00	1,715	6,402	\$49,815.00	\$1,830.00	\$ 169,464.00

## PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS ON GOVERNMENT PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY LANDS

As at March 31st, 1956

No. and Name of Area	Values	Fencing, Wells, etc.	Area of Clearing	Area of Breaking	Values	Cost of Surveys	(Miles) Roads	Cost	Total
No. 1 Dist. Nurses House, Keg River ---- Supervisor's House, Foreman's House, Granaries, New Store, 2 Barns, Pig Pen ----- School and 2 Teacher- ages, New School, New Comb. School and Hall, Post Office, Implement Shed, Garage, Hospital, Oil Warehouse, 2 Offices, 2 Schools and 2 Teacherages ----- Big Prairie --- Bridge over East No. 4 Prairie River ----- East Prairie -- School and Teacher- age Hall, 2 barns, Plank Beaver River -- Corral, 120-ft. Bridge over Beaver River, Store, 2 Supervisors Houses, 2 Schools, 2 Teacherages, Granary, 2 Garages, Post Office, Oil Warehouse ----- No. 8A Implement Sheds, Office, School and Wolf Lake --- Teacherage ----- House, Office, Hall, No. 10 New School, Store- Fishing Lake house, School and Elizabeth ----- teacherage -----	\$21,905.00		--	145	\$ 725.00	\$ 612.00	14	\$ 1,000.00	\$25,592.00
No. 3									
Utikuma and									
Big Prairie ---	10,250.00		--	40	320.00	176.75	7	1,100.00	11,846.75
No. 4									
East Prairie --	8,000.00		--	10		71.33	6	4,000.00	12,071.33
No. 7									
Beaver River --									
No. 8A									
Wolf Lake ---	17,150.00		--	67	363.00	106.00	22	2,600.00	21,119.00
No. 10									
Fishing Lake									
Elizabeth -----	12,146.00		--	35	422.00	334.48	12	2,400.00	15,364.48
	\$72,001.00		45	297	\$1,830.00	\$1,340.23	61	\$11,100.00	\$88,593.23





## Appendix "D"

## CAPITAL EQUIPMENT ON METIS COLONIES PURCHASED THROUGH METIS TRUST

Tractors -----	7	
Power Units (Hercules) -----	2	
Sawing Outfits (complete with edgers, etc.) -----	3	Coutts design
Planers -----	2	
Cooler Units -----	1	(for use in connection with abattoir)
Trucks (including 1 bus) -----	3	
Electrical Power Generating Units -----	7	(with two additional in prospect) complete with all necessary wiring
Movie Projection Machines -----	5	(with two additional in prospect) complete with screens
Grain Separators -----	4	
Horse drawn farm machinery and road building equipment -----	—	large quantities

## **Report of the Chairman**

### **Child Welfare Commission**

**J. E. WARD**

The developing story of Alberta is one of prosperity and progress. Unfortunately, in the wake of such development the need for social service increases. This increasing need is a result of transient population, housing shortages, and the social problems that normally accumulate in large centres. Coupled with this is the large northern area of the province—sparsely populated, unorganized territory, but, nevertheless still requiring the attention and service of this branch.

The services of the Child Welfare Branch are not limited to transient population, to undeveloped areas, or to the lower income brackets of society; rather, it must be available to individuals and families in every walk of life. Because Child Welfare work frequently deals with a family scene the need for integration with other services is becoming more and more evident. It is a situation that is constantly under review in an endeavour to meet the growing responsibilities and volume demand.

### **NEGLECTED AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN**

The legislation defining a neglected child is very broad in its meaning. Neglect can result from a great variety of circumstances. However, the decision of making a child a ward of the government by reasons of neglect is the result of evidence presented before a Juvenile Court, and only after all evidence has been accumulated is a decision of wardship reached. The Juvenile Court is not similar to a Trial Court. The proceedings are in camera and the discussion with the Juvenile Court Judge or Magistrate is free of the formality generally observed in a Trial Court.

When a child has been apprehended as a neglected child, then the parents must be notified and they are closely consulted regarding their problems and opportunities to rehabilitate their home. The Judge of the Juvenile Court has three alternatives in making his adjudication. The first—that the case may be adjourned sine die, with the child being returned to his parents or guardians; the second—an order for temporary wardship, where the child becomes a ward of the government for a period up to twelve months; and, the third being an order for permanent wardship which is binding until a child reaches his eighteenth birthday. The latter order may be cancelled during the interim by an Order-in-Council, or superseded by an Order for Adoption.

During the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1956, 1,192 new wardships resulted through court action and transfer of guardianship. Of this number 262 were of a temporary nature. Considering this figure more closely one realizes this represents almost one hundred children each month who become new wards of the government. The massive problem of assimilating these children into care, continually requires the utmost devotion to their job by each member of the Child Welfare Branch. Locating and supervising foster homes, the normal problems of a growing child at school and

at home, and the often more difficult problems stemming from the background of a neglected child, are met on a daily basis, and must be treated with patience and understanding. Complete medical attention is given every ward when he arrives under our care and where necessary, psychiatric services are available.

Coupled with the figure mentioned above are those children who become wards by legal transfer of guardianship. It is from this group of children that the large majority of adoptions occur. This method of wardship generally applies to those children who are born out of wedlock. When an unmarried mother wishes to surrender her child for adoption then she must make formal application to the Child Welfare Commission. Six hundred and eighty such applications were approved by the Child Welfare Commission during the twelve month period up to March 31st, 1956. A record of all children born out of wedlock is maintained by this Branch and in each case the mother is contacted and asked whether or not she will require help in caring for her child.

At the end of the fiscal year March 31, 1956, a total of 2,935 children were under care as wards of the Superintendent in this Province.

## LEGAL ADOPTIONS

Enquiries regarding adoption of children are received regularly by letter, by telephone, and in person. As a rule, following receipt of preliminary information, an application is completed by the interested couple. Each of these applications is then dealt with by the Home Investigating Committee. When an application has been approved by the Committee then it is forwarded to the Placement Division and the selection of a suitable child begins in this Division.

The adoption legislation requires that a child remain in an adoptive home for a twelve month probationary period and then, when the total situation is proven to be suitable, a petition for legal adoption is completed and submitted to the Child Welfare Commission for review and subsequent presentation at District Court. All adoption material is treated as confidential and when an adoption has been finalized all documents relating to it are put in a sealed package that can only be opened with the permission of a District Court Judge. A total of 908 adoptions were completed during the year ending March 31st, 1956. All adoptions petitioned in this Province must be reviewed by the Child Welfare Commission and this affords a sound protection for adoptive parents who might otherwise be victimized by unscrupulous persons.

## HOME INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE

As in previous years the Home Investigating Committee reports a surplus of applications for Protestant children as compared to the number available for adoption. This condition has made it necessary to advise applicants of the necessity of a waiting period before an application can be filled. This is sometimes a disappointment to prospective adoptive parents who are anxious to receive the child as soon as possible. However, since the waiting period commences with the date the application is received by the Department, this provides the Home Investigating Commit-



tee with time to make a thorough study of all circumstances relating to the placement of a child and ensures, for the child as well as the applicants, a highly successful and satisfactory placement.

Where applicants are of the Catholic Faith the waiting period is comparatively short and usually is determined by the time required to make a thorough and complete investigation for the information of the Committee and the selection of a child by the applicants, assisted by the Placement Division of the Child Welfare Branch. In the comparatively few cases where it was necessary to defer applications for lack of satisfactory qualifications, a majority of these were able to make certain adjustments and improvements and were later approved.

As stated above the Committee does not make a decision with respect to an application until all necessary information has been submitted and a thorough investigation is made by one of our authorized representatives or, if outside of the province, by an approved reputable agency. Before a decision is reached the following factors are given careful consideration: Applicant's age, health and personal history; the number of children in the home, the training, school and religious educational opportunities which may be available, and whether advantage is being taken of these opportunities; the family background of the applicants; housing accommodation covering the type, number of rooms, heating facilities and cleanliness of the home; the religious beliefs and moral standards of the applicants; the financial security, community interests, and any other considerations which might have a bearing on the stability of the home.

In addition to the above responsibilities, the Committee reviews all petitions for the adoption of ward and non-ward children and recommends to the Child Welfare Commission the approval or otherwise of these cases for presentation to the Court. Other duties include keeping careful and accurate records of all approved foster homes and arranging for the supervision and inspection of all foster homes in which children have been placed for adoption or otherwise.

During the year under review 1,136 applications for children, with a view to adoption, were received of which 875 were approved, 44 deferred, 44 cancelled, 61 declined for lack of proper qualifications and 112 under investigation. Out of the number approved 719 were of Protestant Faith and 152 Catholic and 4 others. To assist the Committee in dealing with these applications, a total of 3,408 calls were made by the Inspection Branch of the Department.

During the period covered in this report 589 petitions for the adoption of Government wards were received and 319 for non-ward children. To assist the Committee in dealing with these petitions a total of 908 reports were submitted by the Inspection Branch. The total number of calls made to assist the Committee in all of its duties was 7,524 during the fiscal year under review.

It is interesting to note there was an increase of 36% in the number of applications for children received during the period under review as compared with the corresponding period last year.

## THE CHILDREN OF UNMARRIED PARENTS ACT

As previously stated, this Branch obtains a record of each child born out of wedlock in the Province. In some cases the unmarried mother has established contact with this office prior to her confinement and in this way is familiar with the help available to her. All aspects of her problem are discussed and she is counselled as far as possible in her planning for the child. Should the unwed mother decide to surrender her baby for adoption then her application is made to the Child Welfare Commission and this is accompanied by a social history of the mother and as much information as can be obtained about the putative father. If a child is accepted as a Government Ward then the case history is referred to our Placement Division to assist in the selection of an adequate home. In some instances the mother will plan to keep her child and if she so desires this Branch approaches the putative father to contribute towards the child's maintenance.

During the fiscal year 1,431 children were registered as illegitimate births in this Province. Six hundred and eighty of these were surrendered as wards by the mothers. In assisting those mothers who requested help this Branch collected a total of \$64,054.36. Again this year this figure shows an increase over previous years. All monies collected on behalf of these children must be paid to the Superintendent and a Trust Fund is opened for each child. The money is expended at the discretion of the Superintendent.

In a rich Province the citizenship potential of those children who became wards is remarkable and it is not possible to estimate the never-ending requirements of time and effort that must be expended in order to serve them better.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman,  
Child Welfare Commission.

## **Mothers' Allowance Branch**

### **REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

**W. P. BULLOCK**

Mothers' Allowances are provided for under The Alberta Mothers' Allowance Act mainly for the purpose of assisting needy mothers in bringing up their children as a family group and is administered so that there is no tendency to destroy the initiative and self sufficiency of the family concerned. The total cost of the payments made under this Act for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1956 amounted to \$1,314,733.00. The total number in receipt of the allowance as at March 31, 1956 was 1,809. The total number as at March 31, 1955 was 1,719 or an increase of 90 for the current year over the previous year. The increasing rate of automobile accidents together with the increased activity in the Oil Industry and other industries are contributing factors to the increased cost of Mothers' Allowance. The net expenditure for the month of March, 1956 was \$111,170.00.

One of the oldest, if not the oldest piece of Welfare Legislation in the Province of Alberta is The Mothers' Allowance Act, which has been in force since 1919. Municipalities contribute a small portion of the basic allowance and are responsible for recommendations and reports. Full and complete reports are very necessary as they enable us to determine whether or not a recipient continues to be eligible. We have, and are, experiencing a reasonable amount of difficulty in obtaining reports that indicate a true picture of the recipients' circumstances. However, reports are improving to some extent.

The most recent amendment was assented to in March, 1953, which provides an allowance for a woman who had lived in Alberta for a period of fifteen or more consecutive years and who thereafter made her home in another province and who returned to Alberta after the death of her husband and remained in Alberta for a period of one year as a self-supporting person. This amendment certainly indicates the thought that is given to Albertans. Numerous amendments have been made since 1936, extending considerably the assistance previously provided.

An indication of the increase in financial benefits under this Act follows: 1943-1944 the average allowance paid on behalf of each child was \$13.62 per month. The average allowance paid on behalf of each child as at March 31, 1956 was \$23.93. Further indication of the increase in assistance provided is certainly evident when we realize that the expenditure in 1919 in Mothers' Allowance amounted to only \$39,427.04, in 1934-35 the expenditure was \$462,393.11 and in 1955-56 the expenditure amounted to \$1,314,733.00.

A further benefit was added in 1947 that provided Hospital and Medical Services for the mother and her dependent children under eighteen years of age. As of March 31, 1956 approximately 1,800 mothers with over 4,000 children were receiving the benefits of the free hospital and medical services. It is generally felt that the most important amendment to this Act became effective in 1946. At that time the age limit was extended for both boys and girls from 16 to 18 years. Thousands of Alberta children have been given the opportunity to further their education through this amendment.



While no specific amount is set out in The Mothers' Allowance Act, it does suggest very definitely that an amount appropriate to the need is available. In our effort to make our Mothers' Allowance payments uniform throughout the Province we are using what might be called a yardstick, to determine a reasonable amount in each case, and providing a mother's income and the income value of her assets are not in excess of \$1,200.00 and providing the Municipality is prepared to recommend:

A woman with one child whose outside income is not in excess of \$120.00 per annum .....	\$60.00 per month
A woman with one child (in other cases) .....	50.00 per month
A woman with two children .....	70.00 per month
A woman with three children .....	85.00 per month
A woman with four children .....	95.00 per month
A woman with five children .....	105.00 per month
A woman with six children .....	115.00 per month
A woman with seven children .....	125.00 per month
A woman with eight children .....	135.00 per month
A woman with nine children .....	145.00 per month

In addition to the above, where the Municipality feels the need is urgent they may grant Public Assistance over and above the foregoing amounts. The Province of Alberta contributes sixty percent of the extra assistance granted by the Municipalities by way of Public Assistance.

Free Hospital and Medical Services provided are as follows:

1. MEDICAL: In the event of sickness the services of a physician are provided.
2. HOSPITALIZATION: Provides for Standard Ward care and all special services available in an Alberta approved hospital including necessary appliances and prescribed drugs, except the following for which the hospital may charge the patient: Cortisone or ACTH, Eicher or Judet heads, colostomy or ileostomy outfits, cortate or oestrogen implants, heparin and any new drugs placed on the market subsequent to March 1, 1953. Outpatient hospital services not provided.
3. DENTAL: Services provide for routine dental care including one-half the cost of new dentures and excluding posterior bridgework and orthodontia.
4. OPTICAL: Services provide for refraction and glasses on the recommendation of an eye specialist or an optometrist and on the approval of the Director of Medical Services.
5. Other treatment services may be provided on the recommendation of your physician and the approval of the Director of Medical Services.

NOTE: Drugs are provided only when the pensioner is a patient in hospital. Ambulance and other transport services such as artificial limbs, hearing aids, etc. are not provided.

Enquiries should be made to the Director, Division of Hospital and Medical Services, Department of Public Health, Edmonton.

An application for an allowance should be made to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality in which the husband had his home at the time of his death or made directly to the Superintendent of the Mothers' Allowance Branch.

An allowance may be granted to:

1. A widow.
2. A woman who has been living in marital relations with a man for a period of at least five years prior to his death and who had borne children registered in his name.
3. The wife of a man committed to a mental hospital under The Mental Diseases Act.
4. A woman who has been deserted for three continuous years or more without reasonable cause.

The following table indicates the number of allowances granted under appropriate headings:

### NEW APPLICATIONS GRANTED IN 1955-1956

#### Cause of Husband's Death

Heart	Cancer	Cerebral Hemm.	Other Causes	Motor Vehicle Accident	Other Accidents	Suicide
99	54	14	70	15	34	9
Husband Committed to Mental Hospital			Husband Deserted Family			
19			16			

The following statistics will indicate something of the extent of the work involved in administering Mothers' Allowance.

The figures shown in the following statements are on an incurred basis. There will, therefore, be a slight variance with the figures shown in Public Accounts:

Cost to Province .....	\$1,086,718.40
Cost to Municipalities .....	228,014.60
Total Cost .....	1,314,733.00
Average Allowance per mother per year .....	626.96
Average Allowance per child per year .....	287.25
Average number of children per family .....	2.18
Number of Allowances Granted .....	353
Number of Allowances Reinstated .....	25
Number of Increases Granted .....	173
Number of Decreases made .....	350
Number of allowances discontinued .....	288
Number of mothers enrolled as at March 31, 1956 .....	1,809
Number of children enrolled as at March 31, 1956 .....	4,105
Number of Mothers in receipt of allowance as at March 31, 1956 under following classifications:	
Death .....	1,618
Committal .....	56
Desertion .....	103
Common-Law .....	32
	<u>1,809</u>

Payments amounting to \$1,314,733.00 were made on behalf of 2,097 Mothers for the support of 4,577 children as shown hereunder:

Municipal Unit	No. of Mothers	No. of Children	Basic	C.L.B.	Total Cost
Calgary -----	174	359	\$ 95,560.00	\$ 13,372.50	\$ 108,932.50
Edmonton -----	262	559	143,710.00	20,965.00	164,675.00
Lethbridge -----	46	84	25,080.00	3,932.50	29,012.50
Medicine Hat -----	37	78	18,440.00	2,605.00	21,045.00
Wetaskiwin -----	8	19	4,165.00	600.00	4,765.00
Red Deer -----	14	37	10,280.00	1,380.00	11,660.00
Drumheller -----	4	5	1,430.00	250.00	1,680.00
Camrose -----	10	23	4,970.00	705.00	5,675.00
Towns -----	284	637	160,243.00	21,285.00	181,528.00
Villages -----	93	197	49,045.00	7,250.00	56,295.00
Improvement Districts	264	610	156,882.50	20,945.00	177,827.50
Municipal Districts--	850	1,874	461,327.50	62,115.00	523,442.50
Special Areas -----	13	27	4,950.00	865.00	5,815.00
National Parks -----	10	16	4,670.00	735.00	5,405.00
Government -----	28	52	14,780.00	2,195.00	16,975.00
Totals -----	2,097	4,577	\$1,155,533.00	\$159,200.00	\$1,314,733.00

Respectfully submitted,

W. P. BULLOCK,  
Superintendent, Mothers' Allowance Branch.



## PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

## TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

**Pensions Board****W. P. BULLOCK, Chairman**

For the Year April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956

**OLD AGE ASSISTANCE**

Old Age Assistance is provided to persons between sixty-five and sixty-nine years of age, providing these persons have resided in Canada for twenty years immediately preceding the date of commencement of assistance payments or to persons, if they have not so resided but have been present in Canada prior to those twenty years for an aggregate period equal to twice the aggregate periods of the absence from Canada during those twenty years. Old Age Assistance is administered by the Provinces and contributed to on a 50-50 basis with the Federal Government. The maximum amount allowed under this Act is \$40.00 per month and paid according to the circumstances of the applicant. Prior to January, 1952 a pension of this type was granted to persons over seventy years of age only. In January, 1952 the Dominion Government undertook to pay Old Age Security to all persons seventy years of age and over, on the understanding that the Provinces would provide assistance to persons between sixty-five and sixty-nine years.

Our payroll under this Act has consistently increased and as at March 31, 1956 we had 5,521 actually on our payroll. It is noted at least to some extent that the flow of applications is levelling off and our payroll is not increasing at the same rate. One of the reasons being that when a person becomes seventy years of age he is transferred to Old Age Security, this assistance being provided by the Federal Government. We are at the present time transferring approximately 120 each month. We do not anticipate an increase in the coming year of more than 10%.

This assistance is provided to married persons whose income and the income value of their assets does not exceed \$1,200.00 and in the case of a single person does not exceed \$720.00 per year. As a result of this we have a fairly large number of pensions that are being decreased and suspended due to income and newly acquired assets. Where a recipient has received during the pension year more income than he has been entitled to, we are obliged under the Act to decrease or suspend his pension. If there has been an overpayment incurred we are obliged to insist that the overpayment be paid. Where a recipient reaches the age of seventy years and there is still an overpayment charged against his account and where he is not in a position to repay the amount, we are obliged to refer such cases to the National Director who in turn makes the necessary arrangements through the Federal Treasury Board to have reasonable monthly deductions made from his Old Age Security payments. This was made possible in view

of the fact that the Federal Government amended their Treasury Act to permit this procedure.

It might be noted at this point that a person does not have to be naturalized to qualify for this assistance. They do, however, have to be at least sixty-five years of age and have resided in Canada for at least twenty years and not have an income in excess of the amount set out in the above paragraph.

Prior to January, 1952 we were obliged to recover from a recipient's estate any pension paid, provided the beneficiary was not his wife or another pensioner. This feature does not enter into the payment of Old Age Assistance and as the Old Age Pensions Act was rescinded in March of 1954, no recoveries whatsoever have been made since March, 1954.

Old Age Assistance is provided to a recipient so long as he remains resident in Canada, however, a period of absence not in excess of 92 days in each calendar year may be granted, where the absence from Canada is of a temporary nature. The recipient must advise us prior to leaving the country.

The Pensions Branch is dealing with approximately 180 applications each month. The average number rejected is between 25 and 45.

In addition to the basic \$40.00 provided under this Act, the Province provides a Supplementary Allowance up to \$15.00 per month which is also paid according to the applicants' financial circumstances. This Supplementary Allowance was increased from \$10.00 to \$15.00 during the sitting of the last Legislature and effective April 1, 1954. The total cost of this extra allowance is borne wholly by the Province of Alberta who also have taken the responsibility of providing Hospital and Medical Services to the pensioner, his spouse and dependent children who are under eighteen years of age. The Medical Services are provided for through an agreement with the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons. The Hospital Services are provided for through an agreement with the Alberta Government and Alberta approved hospitals. A pension transferred from Old Age Assistance to Old Age Security continues to receive the benefits provided under the Supplementary Allowance Act and the Hospital and Treatment Services Act.

The total amount paid out under the Old Age Assistance Act from April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956 was \$2,492,195.18. The average Old Age Assistance payment for the month of March was \$36.16.

One of our most difficult problems in administering this Act is in obtaining sufficient evidence of age, however, in cases where there is little or no evidence the Act permits the Board to set up a Tribunal. The Tribunal takes into consideration evidence on file and any evidence that can be brought out at the hearing. The Tribunal consists of three members, one appointed by the Federal Government, one by the Provincial Government and a third acts as Chairman and is selected by the other two members. This provision has been most helpful in difficult cases.

### **BLIND PERSONS ALLOWANCES**

The Blind Persons Allowances Act provides for payment of an allowance to blind persons 18 years of age and over. It is noted that the residential requirement under this Act is only 10 years residence in Canada.

The maximum allowance paid under this Act is \$40.00 per month, according to the financial circumstances of the recipient. The payment under this Act is shared by the Federal and Provincial Governments. The Federal Government's share is 75% and the Provincial Government's share is 25% of the basic allowance.

As in Old Age Assistance, recipients under this Act are not required to be Naturalized. Proof of age and absences from Canada are dealt with in the same manner as under the Old Age Assistance Act. No recoveries from the estates of deceased recipients are made under this Act.

In addition to the Blind Allowance, the Province provides a Supplementary Allowance and Hospital and Medical Services to those recipients and dependents having the necessary residence qualifications.

As of March 31, 1956 there were 415 persons in receipt of the Blind Persons Allowance in the Province. During the year ending March 31, 1956, \$194,701.00 was paid to persons in receipt of Blind Persons Allowance.

Where a recipient reaches the age of 70, payments are transferred to Old Age Security and Supplementary Allowance payments may be continued providing the recipient's circumstances warrant this consideration under the regulations governing the Supplementary Allowance Act.

### PROVINCIAL SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCE

The amount of assistance granted under this type of Legislation, is now at the rate of \$15.00 a month.

The granting of assistance to older people and blind persons started in 1929 and it was not until 1943 that a slight increase in the pension was provided for. The Province of Alberta, for many years, felt that the basic rate was inadequate and, therefore, brought into being The Supplementary Allowances Act in 1942. At the present time the Supplementary Allowance is being paid to persons receiving Blind Persons Allowance, Old Age Assistance and the Federal Old Age Security, providing, in the latter instance, that the person qualifies under the eligibility test as prescribed by the regulations.

To be eligible for the Supplementary Allowance, the residence requirement is as follows:

- (a) In the case of a recipient of an allowance under the Blind Persons Act (Canada) the greater portion of the three years immediately preceding the date the allowance was awarded.
- (b) In the case of a recipient of assistance under the Old Age Assistance Act (Canada) the greater portion of the three years immediately preceding the date the assistance was awarded.
- (c) In the case of a recipient of a pension under the Old Age Security Act (Canada), if he were not previously in receipt of a Blind Persons Allowance or Old Age Assistance, the greater portion of the three years immediately preceding the date the pension was awarded.
- (d) In the case of a recipient of a pension under the Old Age Security Act (Canada), who previously had been receiving a Blind Persons Allowance or Old Age Assistance, the greater portion of the three years immediately preceding the date he was awarded such allowance or assistance.



An allowance may be paid to a person who is not in receipt of an allowance of a similar nature from any other province if, prior to being awarded any of the forms of allowance, assistance or pension under the conditions related in (a), (b), (c) and (d), he had lived in the Province for a period of fifteen consecutive years or a total period of twenty-five years and who, after such period, had left the Province but has returned and has resided in the Province throughout the last two years, except that a person shall not be entitled to an allowance by virtue of this regulation who was resident outside the Province at the time of the award of a Blind Persons Allowance, Old Age Assistance, or Old Age Security and who remained outside the Province throughout the five years immediately following the date of the award.

Supplementary Allowances are paid wholly by the Province of Alberta. The Province makes no claim, whatsoever, for any amount paid under this Act, from the estate of a deceased pensioner.

As of March 31, 1956 the number receiving Supplementary Allowances were as follows:

Recipients of Old Age Security -----	19,133
Recipients of Old Age Assistance -----	5,075
Recipients of Blind Persons Allowances -----	359

The total cost to the Province of Alberta for Supplementary Allowances paid to all of the above persons from April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956, was \$4,181,814.00.

### WIDOWS' PENSIONS

The Widows' Pensions Act was brought into effect in April, 1952 as the Government of the Province of Alberta felt there was a definite need for assistance to widows between the ages of 60 and 65.

This Act provides assistance to a widow who has at least 15 years residence in Canada prior to her 60th birthday and who has resided in the Province of Alberta for the greater portion of the three years immediately preceding the date of application.

The maximum payment under this Act is \$40.00 a month and is paid according to the circumstances of the applicant.

The full cost of Widows' Pension and Hospital and Medical Services, which are also provided, is borne wholly by the Province of Alberta.

The regulations governing this Act are much the same as the regulations under the Old Age Assistance Act and the Blind Persons Allowance Act. When a widow reaches 65 years of age her pension is transferred to Old Age Assistance and when she becomes 70 her pension is automatically transferred to Old Age Security.

As of March 31, 1956, 785 widows were receiving a pension under the above Act. The average pension paid was \$35.71 and the total amount paid in Widows' Pensions in Alberta during the period April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956 was \$339,322.51.

It should be noted also that Alberta is the only province in the Dominion of Canada that pays a pension to a widow in this particular age group.

## MEDICAL SERVICES

Hospital and Treatment Services are provided for persons in receipt of:

- (1) Assistance granted by the Province of Alberta under the Old Age Assistance Act, or
- (2) an Allowance under the Mothers' Allowance Act, or
- (3) an Allowance under the Supplementary Allowances Act, or
- (4) a Pension under the Widows' Pensions Act, and
- (5) a person who has resided in the Province for the greater portion of the three years immediately preceding the date he was awarded a pension under:
  - (a) the Old Age Pensions Act (Canada) or
  - (b) the Old Age Security Act (Canada) if he has not been in receipt of a pension under the Old Age Pensions Act (Canada) prior to the first day of January, 1952 and who is
    - (i) unmarried and his income, inclusive of the pension, is not more than one thousand dollars per year, or
    - (ii) married and living with his spouse, and the total income, inclusive of the pension, of the recipient and spouse is not more than fifteen hundred dollars a year.

It may be noted that as of March 31, 1956, 28,265 pensioners with 3,326 spouses, and 5,036 dependent children, or a total of 36,627, were receiving these benefits.

## TYPES OF SERVICES AVAILABLE

- (1) **MEDICAL:** In the event of sickness the services of a physician are provided.
- (2) **HOSPITALIZATION:** Provides for Standard Ward care and all Special Services available in an Alberta approved hospital including necessary appliances and prescribed drugs, except the following for which the hospital may charge the patient: Cortisone or ACTH, Eicher or Judet heads, Colostomy or ileostomy outfits, cortate or oestrogen implants, heparin and any new drugs placed on market subsequent to March 1, 1953. Outpatient hospital services are not provided.
- (3) **DENTAL:** Services provided for routine dental care including one-half the cost of new dentures and excluding posterior bridge work and orthodontia.
- (4) **OPTICAL:** Services provide for refraction and glasses on the recommendation of an eye specialist or an optometrist and on the approval of the Director of Medical Services.
- (5) **Other treatment services** may be provided on the recommendation of your physician and the approval of the Director of Medical Services.

**NOTE:** Drugs are provided only when the pensioner is a patient in hospital. Ambulance and other transport services, appliances such as artificial limbs, hearing aids, etc., are not provided. Enquiries should be made to the Director, Division of Hospital and Medical Services, Department of Public Health, Edmonton.

## DISABLED PERSONS' PENSIONS

(Provincial)

The Province of Alberta, unique among the ten Canadian Provinces, is at present operating two policies for assisting the disabled persons of the Province of Alberta. The Disabled Persons' Pensions Act was passed by the Legislature of the Province of Alberta on March 31, 1953 and came into effect June 1st of that year.

To be eligible for this pension a person must be 18 years of age and must have resided in Alberta continually for at least 5 years immediately prior to the proposed commencement date of payments to him or for an aggregate period of at least 10 years. This pension is also paid according to income and the income value of assets. A single person is entitled to a pension providing his income or the income value of his assets does not exceed \$720.00. A married person is eligible for an allowance providing the income or the income value of assets does not exceed \$1,200.00. No Supplementary Allowance is paid to pensioners in this group and no provision is made for Hospital and Medical Services.

Assistance is provided to a person who has a chronic disability from which he has suffered for a period of twelve months or longer and is physically unfit for gainful employment. This Act was amended in April, 1954 to include mentally disabled persons. The cost of this allowance is entirely paid by the Province of Alberta.

As of March 31, 1956, 1,077 persons were receiving the allowance under the Disabled Persons' Pensions Act and during the period April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956, \$549,372.58 was paid to disabled persons under this Act.

## THE DISABLED PERSONS ACT

(Federal and Provincial)

An agreement was signed with the Federal Government effective January 1, 1955 whereby the Federal Government agreed to pay a share of pension paid to disabled persons under the Federal Disabled Persons Act. As the Province of Alberta was already paying a pension to disabled persons it meant that a review of all cases in pay, including new applications, had to be made by a Medical Review Board who studied each case to determine eligibility as far as the disability was concerned.

As of March 31, 1956 the Federal Government had accepted, under the Disabled Persons Act, 1,150 pensions.

To be eligible under this Act, the pension must be approved from a medical standpoint by a Medical Review Board which comprised of one medical doctor appointed by the Federal Government and one medical doctor appointed by the Provincial Government. The applicant must be at least 18 years of age and must have resided in Canada for 10 years. His income must not exceed \$720.00 in the case of a single person or \$1,200.00 in the case of a married person.

It is generally felt in Alberta that the regulation pertaining to the degree of a person's disability is very rigid and should be modified to some extent; also the portion of the Act that disqualifies severely disabled persons from receiving the allowance who are so disabled that nursing care is a necessity and the pensioner has to be placed in a home or institution.



## THE GOLDEN JUBILEE SPECIAL ALLOWANCE ACT

To help our Senior Citizens celebrate Alberta's Golden Jubilee the Alberta Government granted us special allowance to any person entitled to receive an allowance or pension as at December 31, 1955 as a responsibility of the Province of Alberta under any of the following Acts: Old Age Assistance Act, Blind Persons' Act, Widows' Pension Act, Disabled Persons Act, Disabled Person's Pensions Act, Mothers' Allowance Act, or to persons in receipt of a pension under the Old Age Security Act (Canada) and in receipt of an Allowance under the Supplementary Allowance Act. This Allowance was also payable to recipients of an allowance under the War Veterans' Allowance Act (1952 Canada) or a pension under Section 38 of the Pension Act (Canada).

The response to this gesture was most gratifying and justly so when we take into consideration the fact that well over 35,000 needy people received approximately \$1,760,000.00.

## PENSIONS IN ALBERTA

The following will show the progress made in Provincial Legislation from August 1, 1929 to March 31, 1956.

OLD AGE PENSION commenced on August 1, 1929 at \$20.00 per month.

(The Dominion assumed 75% from November 1, 1931.)

It was increased on September 1, 1943 to \$25.00 per month.

On May 1, 1947 it was increased to \$30.00 per month.

On June 1, 1949 it was increased to \$40.00 per month.

BLIND PENSIONS commenced on April 1, 1938 at \$20.00 per month.

The ceiling was increased from \$365.00 to \$425.00 on August 1, 1944.

The ceiling was increased from \$425.00 to \$600.00 on May 1, 1947.

HOSPITALIZATION for Pensioners came into effect in June, 1947.

PROVINCIAL SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCE commenced on April 1, 1942 at \$5.00 per month.

Supplementary Allowance was increased on April 1, 1948 to \$7.00 per month.

Supplementary Allowance was increased on April 1, 1949 to \$10.00 per month.

Supplementary Allowance was decreased to \$7.50 per month on June 1, 1949.

Supplementary Allowance was increased on April 1, 1950 to \$10.00 per month.

WIDOWS' PENSION commenced on April 1, 1952 at \$40.00 per month.

OLD AGE ASSISTANCE commenced on January 1, 1952 at \$40.00 per month and

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCE effective April, 1952 at \$10.00 per month. (Ceiling \$720.00 and \$1,200.00).

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCE to persons over 70 commenced in January, 1952 at \$10.00 per month. (Ceiling \$840.00 and \$1,320.00).

DISABILITY PENSION commenced on June 1, 1953 at \$40.00 per month.

MEDICAL SERVICES ONLY commenced on April 1, 1953. (Ceiling \$1,000.00 and \$1,500.00).

SUPPLEMENTARY ALLOWANCE increased to \$15.00 per month on April 1, 1954.

DOMINION DISABILITY PENSION commenced January 1, 1955. (Shared on a 50% basis by the Province and the Dominion).

## STATISTICS

The following statistics indicate to some extent the work involved in administering Old Age Assistance, Blind Persons Allowances, Supplementary Allowances, Widows' Pensions, Hospital and Medical Services, Dominion Disabled Persons Act and the Provincial Disabled Persons Act.

The figures shown in the following statements are on an incurred basis. There will, therefore, be a slight variance with the figures shown in Public Accounts.

**Old Age Assistance Applications and Pensions  
April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956**

Applications received .....		2,397
Applications granted .....		1,829
Applications rejected:		
Not 65 years of age .....	99	
Income .....	225	
Not sufficient residence .....	9	
Transfer of property .....	15	
Recipient of War Veterans' Allowance .....	--	
Pension under Old Age Security Act .....	19	
Refused information .....	57	
Applications withdrawn .....	32	
Died before actually becoming eligible .....	24	
		480
Applications still under consideration .....		88
		2,397
Pensions as at March 31, 1955 .....	5,341	
Add: Pensions granted from April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956 .....	1,829	
Add: Pensions transferred from other Provinces .....	123	
Add: Pensions reinstated .....	104	
		7,397
Deduct: Pensioners who died during the period .....	238	
Deduct: Pensions suspended .....	196	
Deduct: Pensions transferred to other Provinces .....	97	
Deduct: Pensions transferred to Old Age Security .....	1,345	
		1,876
Total Pensioners on payroll as March 31, 1956 .....		5,521
<b>Conditions and Circumstances of Old Age Pensioners Granted during April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956</b>		
Sex: Male .....	964	
Female .....	865	
		1,829
Conjugal State Married .....	924	
Single .....	319	
Widowed .....	471	
Separated .....	90	
Divorced .....	25	
		1,829
<b>Classification of Pensions Authorized during April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956, According to Age</b>		
Age: 65 .....	969	
66 .....	315	
67 .....	255	
68 .....	156	
69 .....	134	
		1,829

**Amount Paid in Old Age Assistance  
April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956**

Total amount paid Pensioners in Alberta .....	\$2,543,904.24	
Less: Total amount of refunds .....	49,895.98	
		<u>\$2,494,008.26</u>
Add: Amount paid to other Provinces and N.W.T. for pensioners with Alberta residence .....	\$30,722.26	
Less: Amount received from other Provinces and N.W.T. for pen- sioners with residence in other Provinces .....	32,535.34	
		<u>1,813.08</u>
Federal Government's Share .....	\$2,492,195.18	
	\$1,246,097.59	

**Applications and Pensions for the Blind  
April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956**

Applications received .....		97
Pensions granted .....		64
Applications rejected:		
Income .....	3	
Not able to meet blind test .....	10	
Application withdrawn .....	3	
Refused information .....	4	
Died before actually becoming eligible .....	3	
Not sufficient residence .....	--	
Applicant not eligible after January 1, 1952 in view of Old Age Security Act .....	2	
		<u>25</u>
Applications still under consideration .....		8
		<u>97</u>
Blind Pensioners as at March 31, 1955 .....	409	
Add: Pensions granted during 1955, 1956 .....	65	
Add: Pensions transferred from other Provinces .....	4	
Add: Pensions reinstated .....	5	
		<u>483</u>
Deduct: Pensioner who died during the year .....	13	
Deduct: Pensions suspended .....	23	
Deduct: Pensions transferred to other Provinces .....	4	
Deduct: Pensions transferred to Old Age Security .....	28	
		<u>68</u>
Total Blind Pensioners as at March 31, 1956 .....		415
Average Blind Pension (basic) .....	\$38.54	



# Conditions and Circumstances of Blind Pensioners

## Added during Fiscal Year 1955-1956

Sex: Male .....	35	
Female .....	29	
		64
Conjugal State: Married .....	27	
Single .....	27	
Widowed .....	6	
Separated .....	4	
Divorced .....	-	
		64

## Amount Paid in Blind Allowances

April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956

Total amount paid to Blind Pensioners in Alberta .....	\$ 197,825.35	
Less: Total amount of refunds .....	3,549.36	
		\$ 194,275.99
Add: Amount paid to other Provinces and N.W.T. for pensioners with Alberta residence .....	\$ 1,640.00	
Less: Amount received from other Provinces and N.W.T. for pen- sioners .....	1,215.00	
		425.00
		\$ 194,700.99
Federal Government's Share .....	\$146,025.74	

## Provincial Supplementary Allowance

Total amount paid to pensioners in Alberta .....	\$4,114,704.45	
Less: Amount of year's refunds .....	50,540.10	
		\$4,064,164.35
Add: Amount paid to British Columbia for Alberta pensioners resident there .....	165,186.15	
Less: Amount received from British Columbia for their pensioners res- ident in Alberta .....	37,182.58	
		128,003.57
Less: Amount received from Saskatchewan for their pensioners resident in Alberta .....	\$4,192,167.92	
	10,353.63	
Total cost to the Province of Alberta .....	\$4,181,814.29	

### Widows' Pensions

April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956

Applications received .....	374
Applications granted .....	291
Applications rejected:	
Not 60 years of age .....	28
Not widow within meaning of the Act .....	6
Lacking required residence .....	--
Income .....	30
Application not completed .....	4
Divorced .....	3
Transfer of property .....	5
Application withdrawn .....	3
Died before actually becoming eligible .....	--
Recipient of War Veterans' Allowance (not eligible) .....	--
Pension under Old Age Assistance Act .....	--
Recipient of Mothers' Allowance .....	1
	80
Applications still under consideration .....	3
	374
Pensions as at March 31, 1955 .....	698
Add: Pensions granted during 1955-56 .....	291
Add: Pensions reinstated .....	18
	1,007
Deduct: Pensioners who died during the period .....	15
Deduct: Pensions suspended .....	207
	222
Total Pensioners on Payroll at March 31, 1956 .....	785
Average Widow's Pension monthly .....	\$35.71

### Amount paid in Widows' Pensions

April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956

Total Amount Paid in Widows' Pensions in Alberta .....	\$ 343,325.96
Less: Total amount of refunds .....	4,003.45
Total cost to the Province of Alberta .....	\$ 339,322.51

### DISABLED PERSONS' PENSIONS

(Provincial)

There were 1,267 applications received, and of this amount 801 were granted, and 547 were rejected for the following various reasons: not sufficiently disabled, not of age, lacking required residence, income, application not completed, transfer of property, application withdrawn, died

before actually becoming eligible, over 65 years of age, in a Public Institution or in receipt of another pension. There are 47 applications still under consideration.

Pensions as at March 31, 1955 .....	1,713	
Add: Pensions granted from April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956 .....	564	
Add: Pensions reinstated .....	39	
Add: Transfers from the Dominion to the Provincial .....	40	
		2,356
Deduct: Pensioners who died during the period .....	43	
Deduct: Pensions suspended .....	163	
Deduct: Pensions transferred to the Dominion .....	1,073	
		1,279
Total Pensioners on payroll at March 31, 1956 .....		1,077
Average Disabled Person's Pension monthly .....	\$38.02	

### Amount paid in Disabled Persons' Pensions April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956

Total amount paid under the Disabled Persons' Pensions Act .....	\$ 558,801.98
Less: Total amount of refunds .....	9,429.40
Total cost to the Province of Alberta .....	\$ 549,372.58

### THE DISABLED PERSONS ACT (Federal and Provincial)

Pensions granted from May 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956 ..	237	
Add: Pensions reinstated .....	23	
Add: Pensions transferred from the Provincial to the Dominion .....	1,073	
Add: Pensions transferred from other Provinces .....	4	
		1,337
Deduct: Pensioners who died during the period .....	48	
Deduct: Pensions suspended .....	92	
Deduct: Pensions transferred from the Dominion to the Provincial .....	40	
Deduct: Pensions transferred to other Provinces .....	7	
		187
Total pensioners on payroll at March 31, 1956 .....		1,150
Average Disabled Pension monthly .....	\$38.01	

### Amount Paid in Disability Pensions April 1, 1955 to March 31, 1956

Total amount paid under the Disabled Persons' Act .....	\$ 455,214.85
Less: Total amount of refunds .....	\$ 7,188.16
Less: Amount received from other Provinces .....	480.00
	7,668.16
	\$ 447,546.69
Total cost to the Province of Alberta .....	223,773.35

In concluding this report, the Alberta Pensions Board wishes to express its sincere appreciation for the loyal and efficient work of the staff of its own office, its own field service, and for assistance and co-operation so freely extended by other Departments of the Provincial Government, the Welfare Officers of the Municipalities, the Regional Director for Old Age Security in the Province of Alberta and his staff, the National Director of Old Age Assistance and Blind Allowances and his staff, and the many outside agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

PENSIONS BOARD,

W. P. Bullock,  
Chairman.

A. C. McCully,  
Member of the Board.

W. A. R. Rees,  
Member of the Board.

D. Robertson,  
Secretary of the Board.



## **Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Branch**

**ANNUAL REPORT APRIL 1, 1955 - MARCH 31, 1956**

**L. R. GUE, Provincial Co-ordinator of Rehabilitation**

The Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons program continued to operate during the period under review using substantially the same services and organization as in the previous year. The Staff of the Branch was augmented on January 1, 1956 by the services of a Rehabilitation Officer, Mr. N. N. McPherson, whose duties consist of assisting the Co-ordinator in the handling of cases in the Edmonton area.

Under the Co-ordination Agreement, the Federal Government continues to share half the cost of administration of the Co-ordinator's office.

In the three phases of rehabilitation, namely, Medical Rehabilitation services, Vocational Training services and Placement services, some developments were noted during the year.

### **(1) MEDICAL REHABILITATION SERVICES.**

The provision of funds for these services continues to be held in the "Deferred" category of the administration of the Medical Rehabilitation Grant, which is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Health. The Co-ordinator's office continually receives requests for services in this field. Most of the requests are for artificial limbs and physical medicine procedures such as physiotherapy, hydro-therapy, remedial gymnastics, and others. In some cases the Rehabilitation Branch has been able to interest private clubs and organizations in paying for such services, but has been unable to provide them directly through public funds.

### **(2) VOCATIONAL TRAINING SERVICES.**

Excellent co-operation continues to be received from the Canadian Vocational Training Branch of the Department of Education in providing training for disabled persons. People suffering from a wide variety of disabling conditions have been successfully trained and re-established in gainful employment. Some occupations for which training has been provided are: Barbering, bookkeeping, secretarial work, shoe repairing, appliance repairing, motion picture projection, radio repairing, watch repairing. The "Training-on-the-job" provisions of the Vocational Training Agreement has proven very valuable in encouraging employers to train disabled persons with low educational standards by taking them directly into employment. Under the contract drawn up in such cases, the Federal and Provincial governments pay part of the employee's wages during the learning period, starting with a high contribution which gradually decreases until the training period is over and the employer is paying full wages.

In in-school instruction, the resources of both government and privately-operated schools have been used. A need is seen for a vocational training institute in northern Alberta, with specific provision being made for training disabled persons.

Correspondence Courses are also provided under the Rehabilitation Program. General education courses are provided through the Correspondence School of the Department of Education, with the Department of Welfare buying textbooks in needy cases. Vocational Correspondence courses are provided through Canadian Vocational Training.

### (3) PLACEMENT SERVICES.

The Special Placements Division of National Employment Service continues to be the official placement agency for the Rehabilitation Branch, and has given good service during the period under review. The placement of village and rural cases continues to be difficult, due in part to the lack of placement officers in other than the eight National Employment Service Offices in Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Blairmore, Drumheller, Red Deer and Edson. Effective placement is achieved in most cases only by direct personal contact between a placement officer and the potential employer.

Many disabled persons have been absorbed into the service of the Government of Alberta, and have proven completely satisfactory in almost all cases. The traditional virtues of disabled persons in remaining stable in employment and having a low rate of absenteeism have been shown true with those employed by the Government of Alberta.

### CO-ORDINATION OF REHABILITATION SERVICES

In September, 1955, the Rehabilitation Society of Alberta for the Handicapped was incorporated by provincial charter. This represents the amalgamation of the three branches of the former Alberta Association for the Handicapped and the Edmonton Rehabilitation Society. The Rehabilitation Society of Alberta for the Handicapped now operates rehabilitation workshops for disabled persons in Edmonton and Medicine Hat, and a workshop is under construction in Calgary. Financial support from the Department of Public Welfare was under consideration during the period of this report, on the understanding that this would be provided for assisting in the operation of rehabilitation workshops under the Rehabilitation Society of Alberta for the Handicapped. The rehabilitation workshops provide a valuable centre for the building up of work tolerance after lengthy hospitalizations, and the restoration of confidence through craft work and mixing with other disabled persons.

All health and welfare agencies in Alberta showed an increasing interest in the rehabilitation program during this fiscal year, and have expressed their approval of the centralization of government services for the disabled through the Rehabilitation Branch.

The Co-ordinator, through his position as Supervisor of Disabled Persons' Allowances, ensures that the applicants for this Allowance or for the Provincial Disabled Persons' Pension are screened for possibilities of rehabilitation. In addition, those who were drawing Disabled Person's Pensions prior to the opening of the Rehabilitation Branch are being reviewed through the annual pensions inspections for possibilities of rehabilitation. Some of these pensioners have been trained or placed in direct employment.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF CASES HANDLED  
by the

**Rehabilitation Branch**

April 1, 1955 - March 31, 1956

**APPLICATIONS FOR REHABILITATION**

	Number of Cases
(a) Direct Applications by disabled persons .....	219
(b) Referrals for Rehabilitation received from the Medical Review Board on Disabled Persons' Allowances .....	63
	282

**REHABILITATION SERVICES PROVIDED**

(a) Rehabilitation services not feasible .....	25
(b) Referred to other services, e.g. Correspondence School, public assistance .....	21
(c) Referred to Disabled Persons' Pensions or Disabled Persons' Allowances .....	44
(d) Approved for Vocational training .....	35
(e) Referred to National Employment Service .....	99
(f) Placed by National Employment Service .....	42
(g) Placed through other channels .....	39
(h) Cases closed as successfully rehabilitated .....	72
	377

**Inspection Branch**

**REPORT OF THE SUPERVISOR, W. T. SYKES**

The Inspection Branch reports on cases when requested to do so by the several branches of the Department. As Government welfare services increase, personnel are added to the Inspections Branch and specific areas assigned to each inspector.

We have through the diligent effort of our inspectors managed to complete requests for investigations in a reasonably short time. Difficulty on occasions, arose in making contact with persons in remote areas due to bad road conditions, however, with special effort our field men managed to deal with these few isolated cases with satisfying results.

During the fiscal year under review the following number of inspections were made. Also shown for comparison are the number of inspections made during the previous fiscal year.

	1954-55	1955-56
Old Age Pension .....	17,162	19,151
Blind Pension .....	645	517
Widows' Pension .....	853	962
Disabled Persons' Pension .....	2,584	3,397
Mothers' Allowance .....	433	741
Child Welfare .....	7,473	7,524
Public Assistance .....	987	837
Miscellaneous .....	445	279
	30,582	33,408



## ANNUAL REPORT

**Accounting Branch****D. W. ROGERS****1955 - 1956**

Appended hereto are a summary by appropriations of Expenditures made by the department for services indicated under the various headings and a summary of Revenue received by the department for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1956. These statements form part of the Public Accounts and show the financial operations of the department during that fiscal year.

The total expenditure of \$13,869,944.92 exceeded the previous year's total expenditure by \$2,766,566.59. The total collected on accounts receivable of \$2,154,564.60 exceeded the previous year's collections by \$236,155.88.

The number of accounts processed for payment continued to increase, noticeably in the Child Welfare Branch where the rise in the number of government wards reflected a large increase in the number of smaller individual payments. The number of ledger accounts and payments made from Child Welfare Family Allowance Trust Accounts showed a corresponding increase.

The Accounting Branch is fortunate in having experienced and capable staff members to handle the unusually large volume of vouchers and prepare the necessary statements and billings. Acknowledgment is made to them for the efficiency of the branch.

Government of the Province of Alberta  
PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
EXPENDITURE CLASSIFIED BY APPROPRIATIONS AND CHARACTER  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1956  
INCOME ACCOUNT

SERVICE	1600 Minister's Office	1601 General Office	1602 Municipalities	1603 Improvement Districts and Special Areas	1604 Transients	1605 Single Men	1607 Rehabilitation and Re-establishment of Needy Persons on Farms and Colonies	1609 The Child Welfare Act	1610 Accounts Branch	1614 Inspection Branch	1617 Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons	1619 Pensions Branch	1620 Supplementary Allowances	S.W. 20/55-56 Golden Jubilee Special Allowance Act	S.W. 39/55-56 Grant to Edmonton Rehabilitation Society	Totals
Automobiles	\$ 2,425.75			\$ 83,192.53	\$ 128,816.22	\$ 5,897.22	\$ 3,973.36	\$ 3,731.01			\$ 1,628.55					\$ 13,682.53
Board						63,023.59		302,020.38			1,119.61					582,145.69
Books and Binding								2,586.15								2,586.15
Burials				2,318.12	563.33	1,766.50		254.50								4,902.45
Clearing land							5.00									5.00
Clothing				4,050.71	5,418.72	560.53	561.42	51,677.81								62,269.19
Equipment		1,614.21				2,224.01		228.11				1,405.10				5,471.43
Feed and seed						1,230.37										1,230.37
Fees and commissions								1,025.96								1,025.96
Freight, express and cartage		235.36				608.61		406.17				346.02				1,596.16
Grants			1,108,597.62					5,979.60				5,344,273.77	4,225,911.14	1,760,874.08	5,196.00	12,450,832.21
Heating, lighting and power				1,901.64	941.73	6,308.08	153.50									9,304.95
Hospital and medical supplies				2,425.41	3,018.43	954.34	2.61	6,831.70								13,232.49
Laundry and cleaning						576.18										576.18
Material						239.28										239.28
Medical and hospital services				22,872.81	33,232.00	30,140.51	16.44	63,318.24				4,583.91				154,163.91
Miscellaneous expenses and supplies	151.48	34.28				2,684.61	21.79	463.02			617.57	15.00				3,987.75
Newspaper and Periodicals		52.00														52.00
Postage	35.00	2,818.47				10.00	65.00	2,096.87		40.00		22,890.33				27,955.67
Printing, stationery and office supplies		7,078.92						3,014.90	498.90		145.69	8,618.18				19,356.59
Rates, rentals and insurance		268.71				2,437.41	185.44	418.18								3,309.74
Repairs and replacements	415.93	414.21				2,862.92	28.39	948.35			6.50					4,676.30
Salaries	11,693.92	75,709.96				23,418.57	17,356.20	71,743.85	40,375.33	50,099.38	11,001.10	91,904.96				393,303.27
Telegrams and telephones	300.10	1,717.85						1,039.67	.65	536.74	4.45	137.95				3,737.41
Travelling expenses	288.70	3,158.60		2,640.08	2,705.56	2,411.34	260.12	10,630.12		32,600.82	1,738.88	2,450.20				58,884.42
Wages				2,340.00		39,182.00	9,895.82									51,417.82
<b>TOTAL: Income Account</b>	<b>\$ 15,310.88</b>	<b>\$ 93,102.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,108,597.62</b>	<b>\$ 121,741.30</b>	<b>\$ 174,695.99</b>	<b>\$ 186,536.07</b>	<b>\$ 32,525.09</b>	<b>\$ 528,414.59</b>	<b>\$ 40,874.88</b>	<b>\$ 83,276.94</b>	<b>\$ 16,262.35</b>	<b>\$ 5,476,625.42</b>	<b>\$ 4,225,911.14</b>	<b>\$ 1,760,874.08</b>	<b>\$ 5,196.00</b>	<b>\$ 13,869,944.92</b>





STATEMENT No. 162

Government of the Province of Alberta

PUBLIC WELFARE DEPARTMENT  
CASH COLLECTED ON INCOME ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1956

	Actual	Estimates	In Excess of Estimates	Less than Estimates
Child Welfare Act, reimbursements .....	\$ 167,634.48	\$ 125,000.00	\$42,634.48	\$ .....
Direct Relief, indigent and medical services:				
Reimbursements from improvement districts and special areas .....	103,046.25	58,000.00	45,046.25	.....
Indigent and medical services:				
Reimbursements from improvement districts and special areas .....	52,991.19	52,350.00	641.19	.....
Mothers' Allowance Act, reimbursements .....	224,062.68	205,000.00	19,062.68	.....
Old age, blind and disabled persons' pensions:				
Reimbursements, blind pensions:				
Government of Canada .....	132,772.90	146,250.00	.....	13,477.10
Provinces .....	1,215.00	1,000.00	215.00	.....
Reimbursements, disabled persons' pensions:				
Government of Canada:				
Medical reviews .....	1,041.86	.....	1,041.86	.....
Pensions .....	245,740.87	300,000.00	.....	54,259.13
Rehabilitation of disabled persons .....	6,203.19	6,835.00	.....	631.81
Provinces .....	420.00	.....	420.00	.....
Reimbursements, old age pensions:				
Government of Canada .....	1,139,089.06	1,250,000.00	.....	110,910.94
Municipalities .....	236.72	.....	236.72	.....
Provinces .....	32,515.34	22,000.00	10,515.34	.....
Recoveries from estates .....	58.85	.....	58.85	.....
Supplementary allowances:				
Reimbursements by other provinces:				
Blind pensions .....	345.00	400.00	.....	55.00
Old age pensions .....	47,191.21	34,600.00	12,591.21	.....
TOTAL: Income Account .....	\$2,154,564.60	\$2,201,435.00	.....	\$ 46,870.40 (Net)

Certified correct,  
C. K. HUCKVALE, F.C.A.,  
Provincial Auditor







